

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

IN CHARGE OF
MARY E. THORNTON

THE CONGRESS OF NURSES

FOREIGN DELEGATES TO THE NURSES' CONGRESS.

A MOST cordial letter has been received from the president of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, wishing success to the Congress and informing us that their association will be represented by an official delegate, Miss S. B. McGahey.

Those who were at the World's Fair Nursing Congress will be much pleased to hear that Miss Amy Hughes, who was there as an English delegate, will again be a delegate to the Buffalo Congress. With her will come Miss C. T. Wood, equally well known by name and reputation. The organizations and interests that these delegates will be authorized to represent will be announced later. They come from the Midwives' Institute and Trained Nurses' Club, which represent a multiplicity of nursing organizations.

In a later number we expect to give sketches of the lives and work of our delegates.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

THE memorandum sent in December last by the president of the International Council of Women, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, to the presidents of the National Councils of the different countries gives a most interesting resumé of the work of this vast international body of women, with which we have allied ourselves through our membership in the National Council of Women of the United States. We ought now to familiarize ourselves with their doings, and though not all nurses can be fortunate enough to attend congresses where thoughtful women from all parts of the world meet to discuss serious themes, we can all follow the reports of their progress and cultivate an interest in the large questions which they discuss.

We learn from this memorandum that there are now National Councils of Women in the United States, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, New Zealand, New South Wales, Tasmania, Italy, and France. These National

Councils all represent the affiliation of many separate organizations within the country itself, and they all send representatives to the International.

Austria, Greece, and Russia were represented by honorary vice-presidents, National Councils not yet being complete in those countries. Norway expects soon to be ready to enter. Mrs. Sewall says in her comments: "It is most interesting to observe that the reports from all the countries into which the council idea has been introduced show not only that it fosters internationalism, but that it strengthens the spirit of nationalism and weakens sectional antagonisms. The deepening of the sentiment of fraternity and an ever widening application of it are the certain fruits of council work."

At the Paris Exposition last summer a series of conferences was held at the head-quarters of the International Council of Women, "at which the constant theme was internationalism. The particular aspect of the subject was, How may a reciprocally profitable internationalism be promoted by women? The methods suggested were more numerous than the nationalities of the different speakers, but upon two points all, speakers and auditors alike, were unanimous. It was the common thought that the next step in the development of civilization must be such a consciousness of common interests among different nations as will make them realize that, in the language of the Master, they are indeed 'all members of one body,' that 'no member can suffer that the whole body does not suffer with it, and neither can any member be exalted that the whole body does not rejoice with it.'

"This conception of internationalism implies that antagonism shall be replaced by sympathy and competition by coöperation. If ever the subordination of the egotism of particular patriotism to the sentiment of inclusive humanity was illustrated it was in these conferences.

"One demand made by the speakers of every nation was always cheered by at least ninety per cent. of the audience,—viz., the demand for a permanent Court of Arbitration, for the cessation of war, and the substitution of peaceful for military methods. The cry of every conference was the title of Baroness von Suttener's book, 'Lay Down your Arms.'"

In the condensed reports of the different councils one finds many interesting items.

The Canadian Council was engaged by the Dominion Government to prepare a hand-book of the work of Canadian women at the exposition.

The German Council publishes a monthly magazine edited by the president.

The Danish Council also publishes a paper (in which, by the way,

may be seen from time to time notes of our nursing work and organization in America) and has adopted the principle of an equal moral standard for both sexes, for which cause it is making a strong propaganda.

Special features of the British Council are its Industrial Committee and its Employment Bureau for Educated Women.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

MISS KEITH PAYNE, matron of the Wellington District Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand, has consented to take a seat in the International Council of Nurses as honorary vice-president to represent New Zealand.

GRADUATES OF NEW YORK INFIRMARY ORGANIZE

AN Alumnae Association has been organized by the graduates of the Training-School for Nurses of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. Meetings are to be held the first Monday in each month from October to June in the Nurses' Parlor, 327 East Fifteenth Street.

BOSTON AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL TRAINING-SCHOOL ALUMNÆ

THE regular meeting of the Alumnae Association of the Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital Training-School for Nurses was held at the Thayer Library February 26.

After transacting the routine business, the special meeting which was called to revise the constitution convened.

There were a number of changes to be made in the old constitution, and the association is greatly indebted to the committee, Miss Florence F. Rice, Miss M. E. P. Davis, and Miss M. B. Brown, for the excellent work which they did in this revision, the most notable change being the name. There are to be eight regular meetings during the year instead of three, as formerly, and it was decided to have two forms of membership,—active and honorary. It was voted that "former superintendents of the Boston Training-School for Nurses who are eligible for membership in their own alumnae may become honorary members of the association. Their names having been presented to the association at an annual meeting, they must be elected by a unanimous vote of the members present."

Letters of acceptance of honorary membership from Miss Linda R. Richards, Miss Anna C. Maxwell, and Miss J. E. Sangstor were read.

There has been a real revival of interest in the Alumnæ Association. Many new names have recently been added to its membership list, and it is hoped that the more frequent meetings will keep a larger number of nurses in touch with the association.

The alumnæ badge is a very attractive pin of white and gold engraved with the State seal; it is hoped all new members who have not already secured one will do so.

The course of lectures on sociological topics given during the winter was well attended. They were held in the old amphitheatre in the dome of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and proved of great interest to those who were able to attend.

STUDY COURSE OF THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ

THE New York members of Associated Alumnæ met for the last time this season with the nurses of the Settlement in Henry Street on Wednesday, March 27. After an interesting outline of the purpose and work of these neighborhood houses was given by Miss Wald, Miss Dock announced she would be glad to conduct any of those present who might wish to see the out-door field of the Settlement nurses' work. It seemed that everyone was desirous to make the tour, so, having been well fortified from the tea-table presided over by Miss McDowell and Miss Wald, and beginning with the first aid room in the basement, the members were piloted across East Broadway and through Hester Street. The scene that meets the eye here is like to none other in the city, for here is the Russian Market; all along the curbing are the pushcarts with the various wares and edibles piled upon them and completely surrounded by the denizens of the tenements, so that to make any progress at all one must take to the street, and the middle of it at that; but right in the midst of this teeming population, when you are convinced that one-half not only does not know how the other half lives but that it does not care, or, worse, does not want to know, you are confronted by magnificent proof that it does care and does want to know, for here, on the site of one of the worst tenement districts, is the open-air play-ground. No comment is necessary. Go and see this spot; then will you realize that New York is at least awake to her responsibilities; someone is on night duty. Reluctantly the visitors moved on and proceeded through Allen Street to the other house in Henry Street, where, through the kindness of the gentleman who supports the house for workers connected with the Church of the Sea and Land, one floor is given over to Settlement nurses. The next point visited was the dispensary newly opened in

Mulberry Bend, and then, with a visit to the always interesting Chinese quarter, the members dispersed, each feeling that she had lived much for one short afternoon.

This finishes the study course for the year, and it is hoped that next year's work may be along the lines indicated this winter. Three very interesting clinics have been given by Drs. Elliott, Abbe, and Weir at the Presbyterian, St. Luke's, and Roosevelt Hospitals respectively, and the members are very grateful to the doctors for giving so much of their time. Thanks are due the New York Alumnae for the entertainment provided by them on March 13 and for the interesting papers read upon that day; to the Bellvue Alumnae for the privilege of hearing Mrs. Duryea deliver her lecture upon "Success," and to the Post-Graduate Alumnae for a visit to the Ward's Island Hospital.

PRIVATE "NURSE"

FOR the benefit of the "Private Nurse" in April number the following letters are printed:

"MY DEAR MISS SECRETARY: Last week the report of the third annual convention was sent me by a friend. It is just what we need to enlighten our alumnae. They are anxious to understand the work of alumnae associations and wish to unite with the National Association. Will you kindly send application-blank and also some reports of the Third Annual Convention for distribution among our members. Enclosed kindly find check to cover cost of reports, mailing, etc.

"Very truly,

"____"

"MY DEAR MISS SECRETARY: . . . The standard of nursing down here, I am told, is something dreadful; graduate nurses work for any price, ethics are unheard of, and nurses seem to have no position. If you will send me a few subscription-blanks for magazines I'll try to get some subscribers. I really feel like taking the platform.

"Very truly,

"____"

These letters come from different parts of the country, and will show "Private Nurse" that she is not the only one having a hard time showing nurses the advantage of belonging to an organized body. It would seem that if a nurse who asked the question, that one with which we are so familiar, "What benefit is it? What good does it do?" would proceed to read up the record of the National Association from the time of its organization, the minutes of the conventions will tell her what has been accomplished. It does seem strange that nurses do not take hold of their organizations and build them up. Take the JOURNAL, for in-

stance; it has a large subscription list, but how much it might be augmented if every nurse would try to obtain even one new subscriber. Why this week a nurse belonging to an *alumnæ* association and living in one of the large Nurses' Registries in New York City saw and heard of the JOURNAL for the first time, and the seventh number out!

OLD DOMINION ALUMNÆ

MISS CABANISS LEAVES OLD DOMINION NURSES' SCHOOL

MISS S. H. CABANISS, the founder of the Old Dominion Training-School for Nurses, has severed her connection with the Training-School. Miss Cabaniss has been in charge of the school for the past seven years, and her leaving the institution is the source of much regret to all who have been associated with her.

An enthusiastic meeting of the Old Dominion Hospital Alumnæ Association was called upon petition of four of its members at the Nurses' Club on April 1, the secretary in the chair, the president and vice-president being out of town.

The motion to appoint a committee of three to adopt resolutions regarding the resignation of our valuable and beloved superintendent, Miss S. H. Cabaniss, was unanimously carried.

The resolutions adopted are as follows:

"WHEREAS, Miss S. H. Cabaniss founded the Old Dominion Training-School for Nurses, and has had charge of same for seven years; and

"WHEREAS, She has taken the lead in raising the standard of nurses and nursing throughout the State of Virginia: be it

"Resolved, That the nurses of the Training-School of the Old Dominion Hospital and of the Alumnæ Association desire to convey to her their appreciation of the good work in the training-school, and of her interest in them not as a superintendent, but as a friend; also be it

"Resolved, That the nurses of the association desire her continued interest in them.

"CAROLINE JOHNSTON,

"C. V. AUSTIN,

"A. GULLY."

It was further voted that the resolutions be placed upon the minutes and a copy forwarded to her, and that they be published in the daily papers and THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Further, as a slight token of the association's appreciation of one who has done so much to raise the standard of nursing in the South and

who has always been ready with words of sympathy and advice, a loving-cup was voted her.

The proposition to organize a better equipped nurses' club as a home for our nurses, to provide a meeting-place for the advancement of professional work, including a reading-room supplied with daily papers and medical and nursing journals, and to provide a department for registration, etc., the same to be under the auspices of the Alumnae Association, was laid upon the table, so as to give out-of-town nurses the opportunity to vote at next meeting. Three young women who had been in the hospital for periods varying from one to six months were reported as wearing the pupil nurses' garb and working as Old Dominion Hospital nurses. Two had shortly discarded the same. One will be written a letter by the superintendent and signed by the hospital staff and president of the Lady Board of Managers requesting her to discard the same at once. After transacting other matters of business the meeting was declared adjourned, to meet again on April 29 at four P.M.

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES' CONVENTION.

THE New York State Nurses' Convention met in Albany on April 16. Through the courtesy of Dr. McDonald and the Mayor of the city, the Council Chamber of the City Hall was placed at the disposal of the nurses. The convention was called to order by the chairman of the State Committee on Organizing a Convention, Miss Sylveen Nye, of Buffalo, who addressed the meeting. Miss Nye said in part:

"Some one has said, 'Know what you want to do, then do it.' We have met here to form a New York State Nurses' Association, the object of which shall be to raise the standard of the nursing profession; to make better nurses; to help those of us already in the work to be broader, more intelligent, more useful; to help us to grow, to develop, for association means growth, means development.

"We believe the proper means of attaining this desired purpose is by suitable legislation: not a legislation by a few for a few, but legislation that will affect all nurses and hospitals beneficially, that will bring about better teaching, better conditions for all nurses, better nursing for all classes of people, and legal recognition of our profession. . . .

"Granted that we know what we want to do, and why, do we know how it is best to be accomplished? That brings me to the purpose of this meeting. To quote from a recent editorial of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, 'the question is not, *Shall* we organize, but *How* shall we organize?'

"Again, quoting from a recent editorial in *The Trained Nurse*: 'Any New York State nurse who attends the Albany Convention may be sure of an opportunity to speak and a courteous hearing.'

"Let every woman present speak as her conscience and judgment dictate. Let us discuss things openly, slowly, carefully, and argue all things in a dignified, kindly spirit. . . ."

Miss Nye then announced that it was in order to nominate a chairman for the meetings. By a unanimous vote she was made chairman, and Miss Hall, of Jamestown, was appointed secretary and treasurer *pro tem*.

The chair then stated that the afternoon would be given up entirely to informal discussion; no votes or action would be taken until the following day; that the chief points to be discussed were the form of organization to be adopted and membership qualifications, and that at the termination of the discussion she would ask the convention to nominate a committee who should present an outline of a constitution on the following day.

The discussion which followed was confined largely to the first point, viz., form of organization. Many advocated individual membership, believing that this would give a larger and more widespread association. Others argued for local organizations with representation in the State society, on the grounds that this method gave a stronger and more orderly body. Miss Damer and Miss Palmer advanced the method adopted by a State Medical Society as showing a way to combine the two. This is, to admit individuals as members until a certain number in the same locality have joined, and then to require them to organize locally and admit future members through this local circle.

The question of membership qualifications was not taken up on the first day.

The committee appointed from the floor to present a draft of constitution was as follows:

Miss Spencer, delegate Presbyterian Hospital Alumnae, New York City; Miss Cadmus, superintendent Faxton Hospital, Ithaca; Miss McDonnell, superintendent Albany Hospital; Miss Damer, president Buffalo Nurses' Association; Miss Allerton, superintendent Rochester Homœopathic Hospital; Miss Aline, in charge Teachers' College Course for Nurses, Columbia University; Miss Waterman, delegate Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Brooklyn; Miss Soulé, private duty; Miss Sanford, delegate Monroe County Association.

It was voted that the committee should draw up a constitution only, leaving by-laws for a later meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

The next day the meeting was called to order at nine o'clock, and began by voting on the motion, "*Resolved*, That we do form a State Society," offered by Miss Bower, delegate Metropolitan Nurses' Club, New York. The vote was in the affirmative.

The committee then brought in their report, containing four clauses. The first stated the name, "New York State Nurses' Association." This was carried.

The second dealt with the objects of the association, which shall be furtherance of educational and professional standards, and cultivation of cordial relations with nurses of other States and other countries. [N. B.—This is only an abstract of the second clause, the exact text of which is not in our hands.] It was carried.

The third clause, being a general proposition to the effect that graduate nurses residing in New York State would be members, was voted struck out, to be covered entirely by the by-laws, for two reasons,—viz., that a membership clause is not required by incorporation papers, and that the complexity of the question made it inadvisable to deal with it generally.

The third clause was passed, providing for officers: a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

A Nominating Committee was then appointed from the floor, as follows: Miss Palmer, Miss Cadmus, Miss Thornton, Miss Detwiller, Miss Dock. The election of officers followed. These were elected:

MISS NYE, president.

MISS MERRITT, first vice-president.

MISS YOUNG, second vice-president.

MISS SANFORD, secretary.

MISS THORNTON, treasurer.

Miss Nye graduated from the City Hospital, Indianapolis, founded the Buffalo Nurses' Club, and was its first president.

Miss Merritt is a graduate of Bellevue Hospital, is superintendent of nurses in the Brooklyn Hospital, and is a member of the Superintendents' Society and of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Young is a graduate of the New York Hospital and represents that Alumnæ Association.

Miss Sanford is a graduate of the Rochester City Hospital and a member of the Monroe County Association.

Miss Thornton is a graduate of the Post-Graduate Hospital, New York City, and is the secretary of the Associated Alumnæ.

Miss Palmer moved that the nurses present be enrolled as charter

members of the new society, and that they each pay one dollar as initiation fee, to defray the present expenses. This was done.

Miss Damer moved that the next meeting be held in Buffalo, at a date to be fixed by the officers. Carried.

A committee of five was named from the floor to confer with the officers in drawing up by-laws.

The meeting then adjourned.

The names of those present were:

Annie Damer, delegate Buffalo Nurses' Association; Julia E. Bailey, delegate Rochester Homœopathic Hospital; Martha O'Neill, delegate St. Mary's, Brooklyn; Elizabeth C. Sanford, delegate Monroe County Association; Eunice A. Heutig, delegate City Hospital Alumnæ; Mary Brooks, Saratoga; Ida R. Palmer, New York; Annie R. Young, delegate New York Hospital Alumnæ; Emma J. Keating, Buffalo; Anna Lowell Alline, New York; Mary E. Thornton, delegate Post-Graduate Hospital Alumnæ; Christine Hall, Jamestown; Marion Detwiller, delegate Graduate Nurses, Jamestown; Eleanor A. Underhill, delegate Alumnæ S. R. Smith Infirmary, Staten Island; Elizabeth M. Burns, delegate Roosevelt Hospital Alumnæ; Lillie L. Waterman, delegate Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Brooklyn; E. H. Hall, Brooklyn; Nellie W. Lee, New York; S. V. Nye, Buffalo; L. L. Dock, delegate Alumnæ of New York Training-School attached to Bellevue Hospital; M. Isabel Merritt, Brooklyn; Mary Eva Allerton, Rochester; Sophia F. Palmer, Rochester; Anna J. Smith, delegate Alumnæ St. Luke's, New York City; Hermione D. Stone, New York; Nancy E. Cadmus, Utica; Frances Black, Rochester; Sophia Edwards Spencer, delegate Presbyterian Hospital Alumnæ, New York City; Mrs. Juliette Lee, New York; Jane G. Roberts, Utica; Gertrude B. Cleveland, Utica; Mrs. Jean Campbell, delegate Alumnæ Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City; Laura Haltern, delegate German Hospital Alumnæ, New York City; Tillie Both, New York; Isabel Gahn, St. Lawrence State Hospital, Ogdensburg; Anne F. Jesttey, St. Lawrence State Hospital, Ogdensburg; Anna Davids, delegate Alumnæ Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn; Helen S. Couzens, Vassar Brothers' Hospital, Vassar; Mrs. Minerva J. Martin, Albany City Hospital; James J. Coakley, delegate Alumni Mills Training-School attached to Bellevue Hospital; Annie Coughlin, May Gifford, Sara A. Burton, Mary Curtice, Rochester; Florence Hutcheson, Albany; Margaret Woodworth, Albany; Margaret Anne Soulé, Albany; Marie A. Mowat, Middletown State Hospital; Louise Bower, delegate Metropolitan Nurses' Club, New York City; E. Robertson, New York; Mrs. M. L. Smith, New York; Amy H. Schwartz, Gloversville; Lillian B. Best, Gloversville; Mrs. H. A. Staley, New York; Miss L. M. Root, New York City; Margaret M. Wallace, Rochester.